Assignment: Reflection 3

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Action Research is research with the intent of leading to action, as opposed to standard research which is performed in the pursuit of knowledge and without intent to make any direct changes. Action Research is very important for teachers. As teachers, we encounter many first hand problems in classrooms. Unlike theorist scholars, practitioners and their teaching actions will have a direct and immediate influence on students’ educational experience. Through Action Research, teachers not only find solutions for problems, but also grow their own professional academic capability. Before I took this class, I didn't know teachers can and do conduct research in their own classroom. Here at the end of the semester, I now have a new understanding of how teachers are capable of performing Action Research, and can clearly see the benefits of doing it.

Action Research is not only important to teachers, but also for students and their families. Students are the test subjects of Action Research. They are the group who will be directly influenced by the implementation of a research project. Teachers, theorists and practitioners will surmise a hypothesis to test in a classroom. If their hypothesis is successful, students will receive an improved teaching method and higher academic achievement. When students perform better at school, their family will have less stress towards their child’s education. Parents will also likely become more cooperative with teachers and build a better relationship with the school. Teachers, students and their families, all tie together through Action Research.

After viewing everyone’s ARP presentations, I have learned that the most important part of beginning research is literature review. When teachers find some problems in the classroom, they will try to solve those problems in different ways. Action Research can lead teachers to define problems, and find solutions through their practices. Literature review is very critical to Action Research. Before any teachers begin their own research, they must first learn what is already known about the topic and how much work has already been done. The review should describe, summarize, evaluate, and clarify the currently available published research work. Literature review serves as a theoretical base for new research. Literature review is a base of Action Research.

My action research ties into the Mission Statement of the School of Education nicely.

The topic of my research is the influence of dual language programs on social relationships. In this process I collaborated with peers, students, coworkers, parents, etc. Through active collaboration I developed new ideas for teaching and research in class. Self-evaluation and self-awareness were important for my self-improvement. My research subject for this class is directly related to social justice. In a general classroom new immigrant students are often treated worse than the other students. My intervention is intended to create a feeling of equality and respect among all the students. I am always aware of social justice both inside and outside of the diverse classrooms.

In this class I learned how academic research is actually done. By that I mean how it’s organized, performed, and presented. I think the two main purposes of this class are to prepare students for their own knowledge of how to properly perform research while working as a teaching practitioner, and potential continued study as a PhD student.